July 26, 2004
Case No.: US010023 (7790/337)
Serial No.: 09/768,921
Filed: January 24, 2001
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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

In the Final Office Action, Examiner Patel rejected pending claims 14-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,698,952 to *Stebbins*. The Applicant responds to this rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.116.

As to the rejection, the Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Patel's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 14-27 over *Stebbins*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Stebbins*. To warrant this anticipation rejection of claims 14-27, *Stebbins* must show each and every limitation of claims 14-27 in as complete detail as in contained in claims 14-27. See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this anticipation rejection of claims 14-27, because Stebbins fails to disclose, teach or suggest the following limitations of claims 14-27.

1. "wherein the lighting device microprocessor is further operable to interpret the signals as commands for controlling the lighting device" as recited in independent claim 14;

2. "wherein the hardware device further includes an edge detector circuit operable to perform a hardware edge detect of the signals" as recited in independent claim 15;

3. " wherein said serial to parallel converter includes a preshift register", and "wherein said hardware device further includes a control logic operable to hold a first portion of a first signal in the preshift register until the first portion of the first signal passes a first error detection testing" as recited in dependent claim 16;

4.   "wherein said serial to parallel converter further includes a shift register", and "wherein said control logic is further operable to hold the first portion of the first signal in the shift register and a second portion of the first signal in the preshift register until the second portion of the first signal passes a second error detection testing" as recited in dependent claim 17;

5.   "wherein said serial to parallel converter is further operable to partition a first signal into portions", "wherein said serial to parallel converter includes a preshift register and a shift register", "wherein, upon receiving the first signal, a first portion of the first signal is shifted into the preshift register to be checked for errors" and "wherein, upon a determination that the first portion of the first signal is error free, the first portion of the first signal is shifted from the preshift register into the shift register and a second portion of the second signal is shifted into the preshift register" as recited in dependent claim 18;

6.   "subsequently conveying the lighting control signal in parallel form from the hardware circuit to a lighting device microprocessor" and "operating the lighting device microprocessor to decode the lighting control signal to thereby control a lighting device" as recited in independent claim 19;

7.   "operating the hardware circuit to move the lighting control signal from a shift register to a storage register prior to conveying the lighting control signal in parallel form from the hardware circuit to the lighting device microprocessor" as recited in dependent claim 20;

8.   "operating the hardware circuit to delay placing any further data into the shift register until after the lighting control signal has been moved from the shift register to the storage register to thereby prevent any loss of the lighting control signal" as recited in dependent claim 21;

9.   "operating the hardware circuit to shift a first portion of the lighting control signal into a preshift register to be checked for errors" and "upon a determination that the first portion of the lighting control signal is error free, operating the hardware circuit to shift the first portion of the lighting control signal from the preshift register into a shift register and to shift a second portion of the lighting control signal into the preshift register" as recited in dependent claim 22;

10.   "means for transmitting and receiving serial signals indicative of commands and data to control the lighting device", "means for ensuring that said data and commands include edges at predetermined times" and "means for converting the serial signals to parallel form and conveying the signals in parallel form to a microprocessor for decoding and for utilization in controlling the lighting device" as recited in independent claim 23;

11. "(a) placing a first portion of the signal into a preshift register, and checking the first portion of the signal for errors", "(b) shifting the first portion of the signal from the preshift register into a shift register if the first portion is error free" and " "(c) repeating (a) and (b) for each remaining portion of the signal before shifting the signal out of the shift register to thereby control the lighting device" as recited in independent claim 24;

12. "wherein the signal is shifted out of the shift register in response to commands from a separate set of arbitration control logic" as recited in dependent claim 25;

13. "wherein the arbitration control logic also controls a manual override for controlling the lighting device manually" as recited in dependent claim 26; and

14. "wherein a determination of an error of a first portion of the signal in the preshift register causes a retransmission of the first portion of the signal from the central computer" as recited in dependent claim 27.

SUMMARY

Examiner Patel's rejections of pending claims 14-27 have been obviated by remarks herein supporting an allowance of claims 14-27 over the art of record. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-27 as listed herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Patel is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.
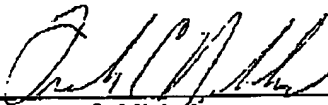
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Respectfully submitted,
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